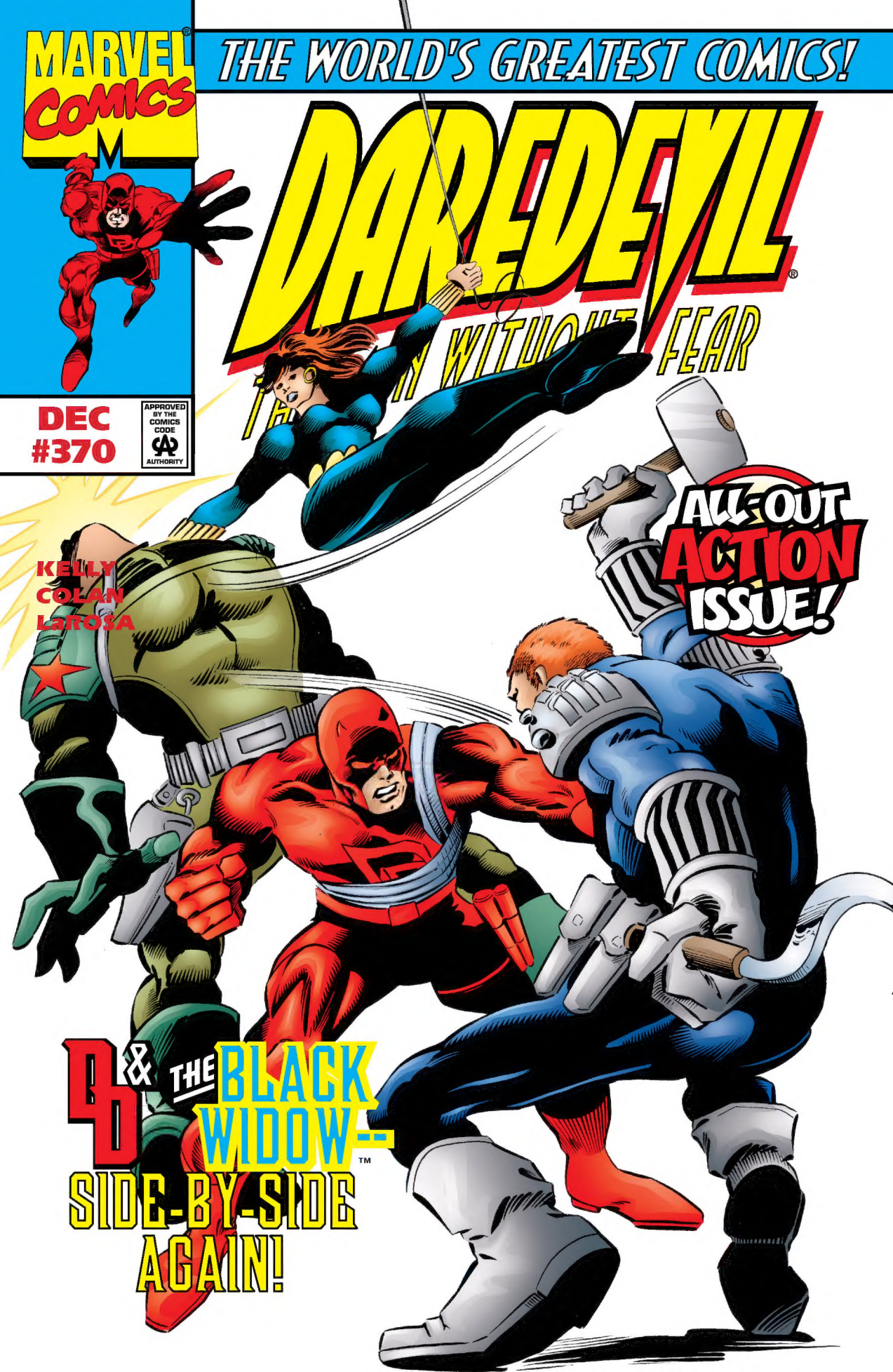
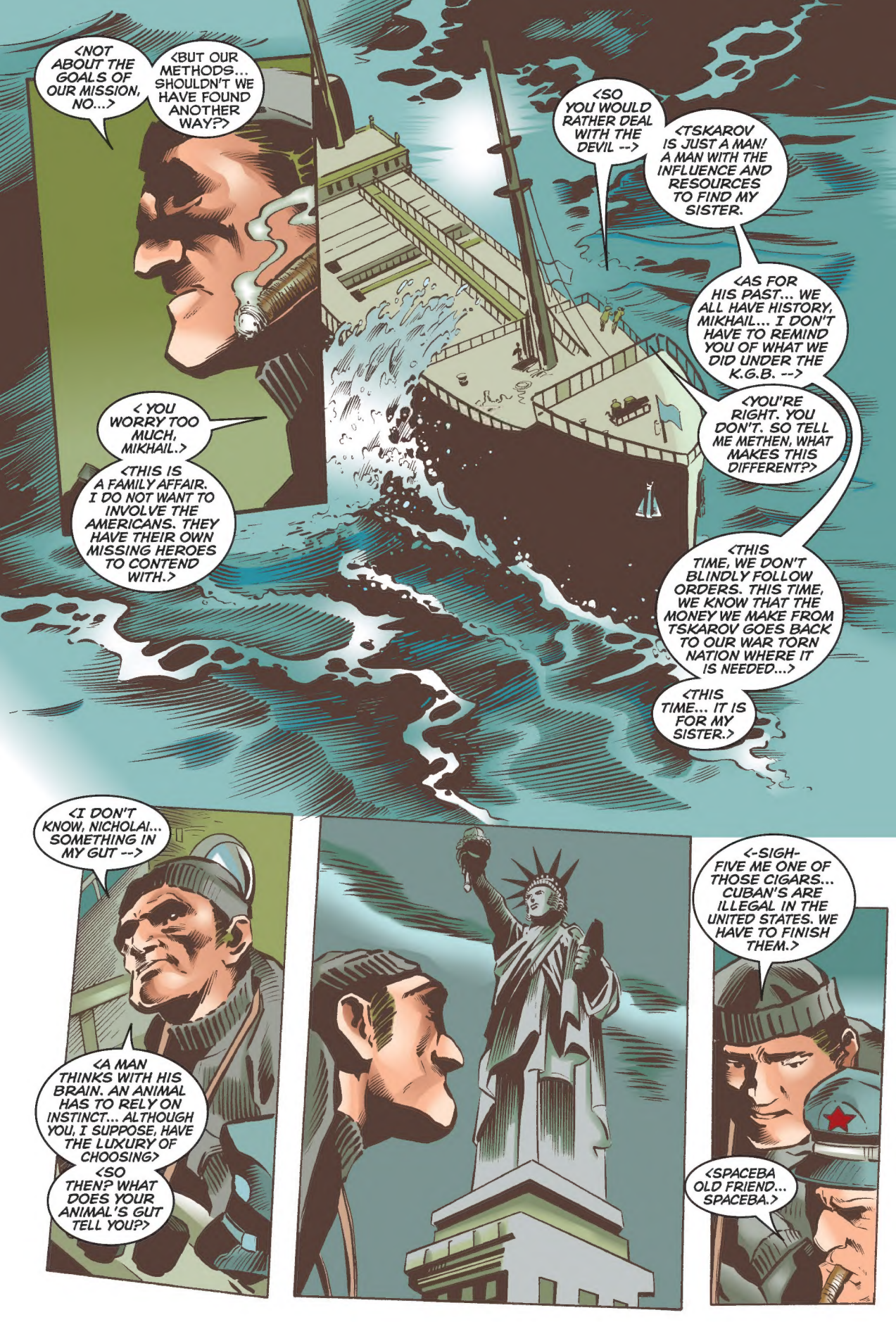

MARVEL COMICS
THE WORLD'S GREATEST COMICS!
DAREDEVIL
FEAR
DEC
#370
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
KELLY
COLAN
LaROSA
ALL-OUT ACTION ISSUE!
D & THE BLACK WIDOW--
SIDE-BY-SIDE AGAIN!

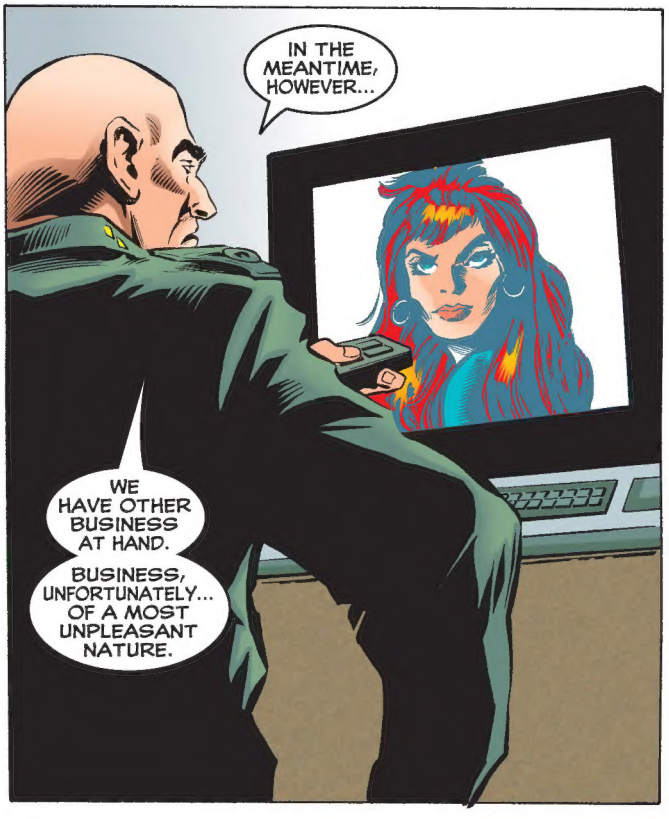
A FEW DAYS AGO...
A PRE-WAR FREIGHTER STRAINS AGAINST THE UNFORGIVING SURF, AS THE LAST LEG OF ITS TRANSATLANTIC VOYAGE CHURNS TO A CLOSE.
<I WANTED TO SAIL ONCE. I WAS VERY YOUNG. READING TREASURE ISLAND -->
<A BANNED BOOK? HA! YOU WERE AN AGITATOR BEFORE IT WAS FASHIONABLE, MIKHAIL!>
<HARDLY. I WAS SO EMBARRASSED TO DISCOVER I WAS IN POSSESSION OF CONTRABAND, I TOSSED THE BOOK INTO THE SEA BEFORE ANYONE DISCOVERED MY SHAME!>
TRANSLATED FROM THE RUSSIAN -- Jaye.
<I WAS A GOOD SOLDIER, EVEN AT AGE TEN...
<IT WAS A SIMPLE TIME, NICHOLAI, WHEN SO MUCH WAS CLEAR... WHERE DID IT GO?>
<NOWHERE... YOU GREW OLDER AND YOUR EYES FINALLY POPPED OPEN. WE ALL DID.>
<HAVING SECOND THOUGHTS, OLD FRIEND?>


<NOT ABOUT THE GOALS OF OUR MISSION, NO...>
<BUT OUR METHODS... SHOULDN'T WE HAVE FOUND ANOTHER WAY?>
<SO YOU WOULD RATHER DEAL WITH THE DEVIL -->
<TSKAROV IS JUST A MAN! A MAN WITH THE INFLUENCE AND RESOURCES TO FIND MY SISTER.
<AS FOR HIS PAST... WE ALL HAVE HISTORY, MIKHAIL... I DON'T HAVE TO REMIND YOU OF WHAT WE DID UNDER THE K.G.B. -->
< YOU WORRY TOO MUCH, MIKHAIL.>
<THIS IS A FAMILY AFFAIR. I DO NOT WANT TO INVOLVE THE AMERICANS. THEY HAVE THEIR OWN MISSING HEROES TO CONTEND WITH.>
<YOU'RE RIGHT. YOU DON'T. SO TELL ME METHEN, WHAT MAKES THIS DIFFERENT?>
<THIS TIME, WE DON'T BLINDLY FOLLOW ORDERS. THIS TIME, WE KNOW THAT THE MONEY WE MAKE FROM TSKAROV GOES BACK TO OUR WAR TORN NATION WHERE IT IS NEEDED...>
<THIS TIME... IT IS FOR MY SISTER.>
<I DON'T KNOW, NICHOLAI... SOMETHING IN MY GUT -->
<A MAN THINKS WITH HIS BRAIN. AN ANIMAL HAS TO RELY ON INSTINCT... ALTHOUGH YOU, I SUPPOSE, HAVE THE LUXURY OF CHOOSING>
<SO THEN? WHAT DOES YOUR ANIMAL'S GUT TELL YOU?>
<-SIGH- FIVE ME ONE OF THOSE CIGARS... CUBAN'S ARE ILLEGAL IN THE UNITED STATES. WE HAVE TO FINISH THEM.>
<SPACEBA OLD FRIEND... SPACEBA.>

15
CUT TO THE PRESENT:
DEEP BENEATH AN INNOCUOUS LOOKING SHOP IN BRIGHTON BEACH, NEW YORK...
-- AND AS BEFORE, GENTLEMEN, YOUR COUNTRYMEN HAVE NEED OF YOU.
THE WORK WE DO HERE WILL ENSURE THAT AT LEAST SOME OF OUR COMRADES BACK HOME WILL HAVE FOOD ON THE TABLE...
... AND A ROOF OVER THE HEADS OF THEIR BABIES. TAKE PRIDE IN THIS.

THE FRIENDS WE LEFT BEHIND TO COME HERE ALREADY SING YOUR PRAISES --
-- MIKHAIL AND I WOULD NOT HAVE CONSIDERED YOUR OFFER OTHER-WISE --
-- BUT MAKE NO MISTAKE, GENERAL TSKAROV, I HAVE ONE PRIORITY IN AMERICA, AND THAT IS TO FIND MY SISTER.

I ASSURE YOU, SON...
...I HAVE EVERY AVAILABLE MAN WORKING TO FIND DARKSTAR... YOUR DEAR LAYNIA.
NO ONE CAN HIDE FROM THE SNOW WOLF FOR LONG. ON THAT YOU HAVE MY WORD.


IN THE MEANTIME, HOWEVER...
WE HAVE OTHER BUSINESS AT HAND.
BUSINESS, UNFORTUNATELY... OF A MOST UNPLEASANT NATURE.

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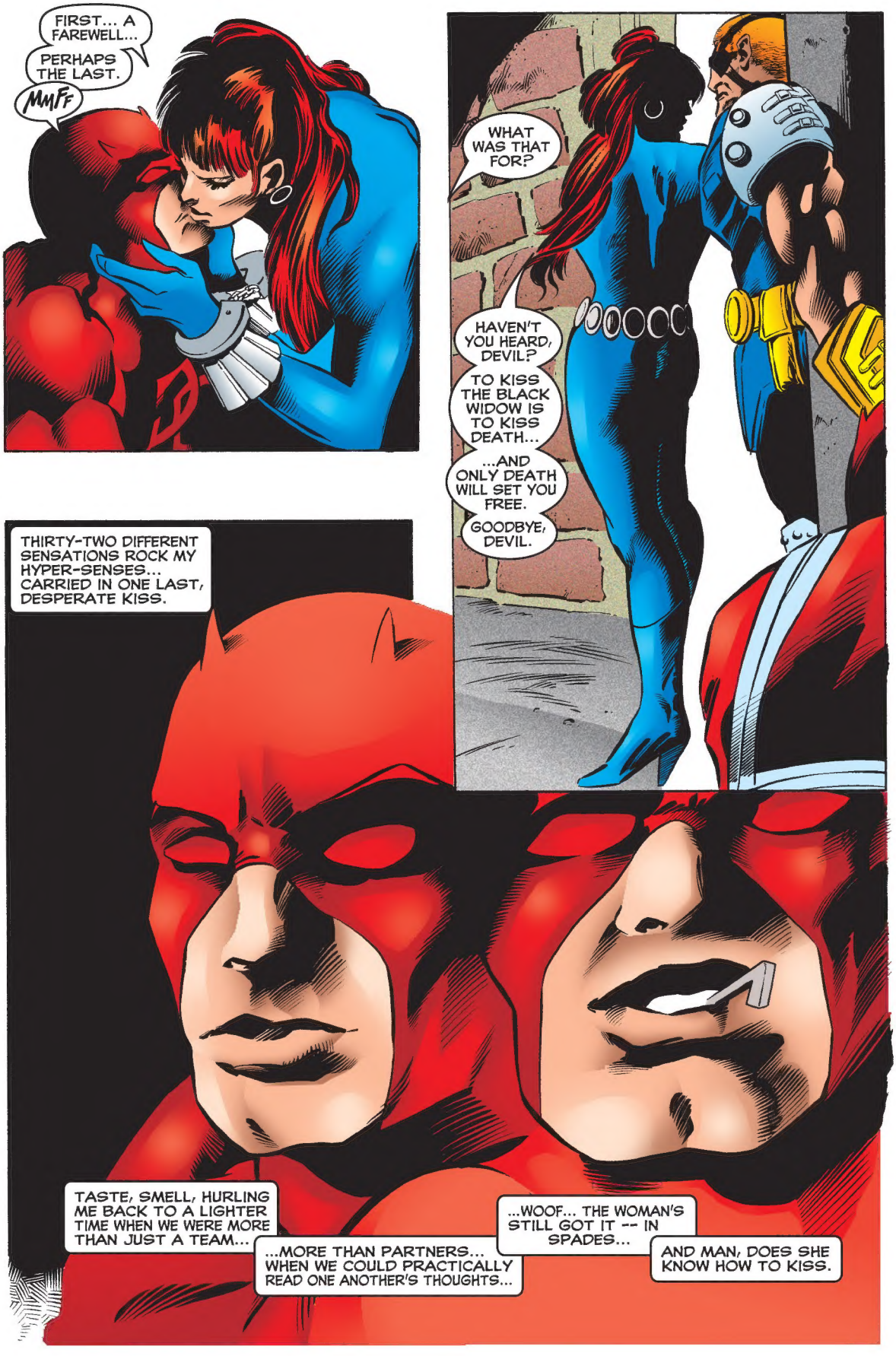
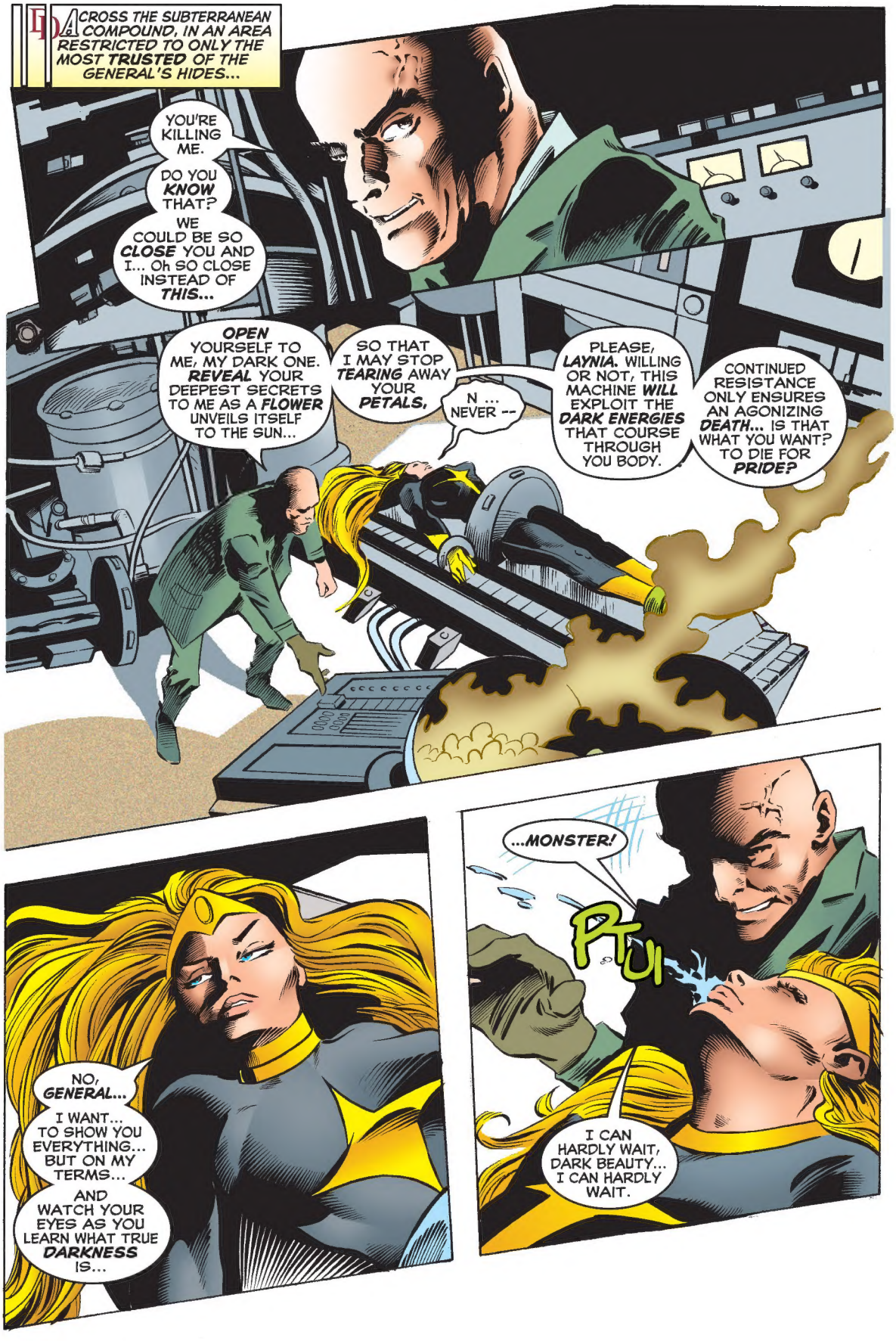
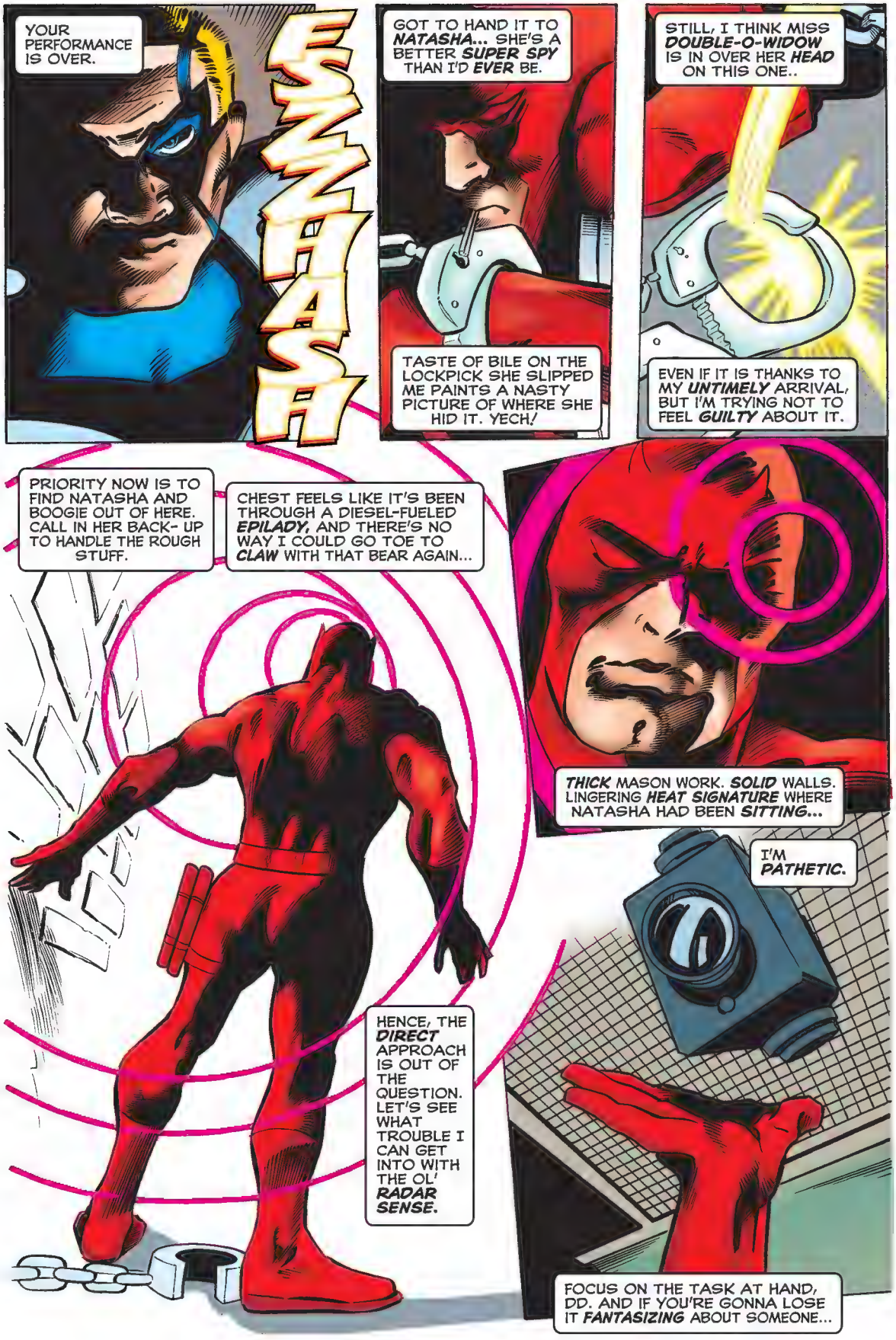
SUPPOSEDLY, SHE ACTING...
...MASTERFULLY PLAYING THE ROLE OF THE FALLEN HERO... THE CORRUPTED BLACK WIDOW...
IF ONLY SHE WASN'T DOING SUCH A STELLAR JOB OF IT, I'D FEEL A LOT MORE AT EASE...
...AND IN A LOT LESS PAIN.
SHE PLUGGED ME WITH A.22 AT CLOSE RANGE TO KEEP HER COVER INTACT FOR SOME RUSSIAN MOB BOSS...
STANISLAVSKI WOULD'VE BEEN PROUD, BUT I THINK SHE TOOK THE METHOD ACTING THING A TAD FAR.
SO NOW, WITH NOTHING BUT THE SILENCE BETWEEN US, I CAN'T HELP BUT WONDER...
DAM ROMANOVA...
HAS SHE GOTTEN TOO INVOLVED WITH HER ROLE TO PULL BACK? HAS THE WIDOW REALLY GONE OVER THE EDGE?
GENERAL TSKAROV REQUESTS THE HONOR OF YOUR PRESENCE...
FOR A DISCUSSION OF LOYALTY.
I'M SURE HE WOULD, VANGUARD. ONE MOMENT...


FIRST... A FAREWELL...
PERHAPS THE LAST.
MMFF
WHAT WAS THAT FOR?
HAVEN'T YOU HEARD, DEVIL?
TO KISS THE BLACK WIDOW IS TO KISS DEATH...
...AND ONLY DEATH WILL SET YOU FREE.
GOODBYE, DEVIL.
THIRTY-TWO DIFFERENT SENSATIONS ROCK MY HYPER-SENSES... CARRIED IN ONE LAST, DESPERATE KISS.
TASTE, SMELL, HURLING ME BACK TO A LIGHTER TIME WHEN WE WERE MORE THAN JUST A TEAM...
...MORE THAN PARTNERS... WHEN WE COULD PRACTICALLY READ ONE ANOTHER'S THOUGHTS...
...WOOF... THE WOMAN'S STILL GOT IT -- IN SPADES...
AND MAN, DOES SHE KNOW HOW TO KISS.


ACROSS THE SUBTERRANEAN COMPOUND, IN AN AREA RESTRICTED TO ONLY THE MOST TRUSTED OF THE GENERAL'S HIDES...
YOU'RE KILLING ME.
DO YOU KNOW THAT?
WE COULD BE SO CLOSE YOU AND I... Oh SO CLOSE INSTEAD OF THIS...
OPEN YOURSELF TO ME, MY DARK ONE. REVEAL YOUR DEEPEST SECRETS TO ME AS A FLOWER UNVEILS ITSELF TO THE SUN...
SO THAT I MAY STOP TEARING AWAY YOUR PETALS,
N ... NEVER --
PLEASE, LAYNIA. WILLING OR NOT, THIS MACHINE WILL EXPLOIT THE DARK ENERGIES THAT COURSE THROUGH YOU BODY.
CONTINUED RESISTANCE ONLY ENSURES AN AGONIZING DEATH... IS THAT WHAT YOU WANT? TO DIE FOR PRIDE?
NO, GENERAL...
I WANT... TO SHOW YOU EVERYTHING... BUT ON MY TERMS...
AND WATCH YOUR EYES AS YOU LEARN WHAT TRUE DARKNESS IS...
...MONSTER!
PTUI
I CAN HARDLY WAIT, DARK BEAUTY... I CAN HARDLY WAIT.

MILES AWAY, IN A MESSY LITTLE MANHATTAN BACHELOR PAD...
SQUEAK
FOGGY, REALLY... YOU'RE JUST GOING TO HAVE TO MOVE ON.
SIGH! I KNOW, LIZ... I DO, BUT I CAN'T HELP BUT WONDER, COULD I HAVE BEEN A BETTER FATHER TO DEUCE?
WOULD HE STILL BE HERE IF I HAD PAID HIM MORE ATTENTION? SHOULD I HAVE FED HIM MILK-BONES MORE OFTEN?
I HAVE A IDEA... HOW ABOUT I DO SOMETHING TO HELP YOU FORGET ABOUT THAT DOG?
YEAH... SURE... LIKE WHAT?
SMOOCH
RRING
Oh... THAT MIGHT WORK --
-Mmmm- LET THE MACHINE GET IT, FOGGY...
Uh... I THINK... IS THIS ON? Uh, YOU'VE REACHED FOGGY AND I'M NOT HOME. LEAVE A -- BEEP --
HEY FRANKIE-BABY! IT'S NIOMI BRINKE! JUST CHECKING TO SEE IF YOU GOT THE FLOWERS...
AHEM...
LIZ, I SWEAR, I HAVEN'T SPOKEN TO HER -- I DON'T KNOW HOW SHE GOT MY NUMBER --
CALL ME, KISS KISS! -- BEEP--
YEAH, SURE... YOU SUPER STUD, YOU.
YOU... YOU'RE NOT MAD?
NO, FOGGY. I TRUST YOU... JUST DON'T RETURN THE CALL, OKAY?
SURE! YOU BET! SO... CAN WE GET BACK TO THAT MAKING ME FORGET PART...? I SEE DEUCE IN MY MIND...
YEARS AGO... THE KIROV BALLET. I SAW A PRODUCTION OF "LA BAYADERE". DAM MAKAROVA WAS ILL THAT NIGHT. HER UNDERSTUDY PLAYED THE LEAD.
I WAS FLOORED BY THE WORK OF THAT YOUNG GIRL... AN INGENUE, SO NAIVE, AND YET...
...SO UTTERLY CAPTIVATING. TALENTED BEYOND HER YEARS --

DO YOU REMEMBER, HOW THEY APPLAUDED YOU? HOW THEY CRIED FOR THEIR NATASHA?
YES. IT WAS AN ADEQUATE PERFORMANCE. A GENEROUS AUDIENCE...
PITY TO SEE THAT YOU'VE LOST YOUR APPRECIATION FOR MY WORK.
THIS IS HARDLY A WAY TO START A BUSINESS RELATIONSHIP, GENERAL. THOUGH THE BONDS COULD BE A START.
IN YOUR CASE, MY DEAR, IT IS THE ONLY WAY, BECAUSE RIGHT NOW, I FEEL LIKE YOU'RE ON THAT STAGE AGAIN, PERFORMING FOR MY BENEFIT.
I NEED TO KNOW THAT YOU'RE NOT ACTING.
I EXPECT THAT WHEN THIS IS OVER, GENERAL... YOU STILL WON'T KNOW. I'M FUNNY THAT WAY. BUT IF YOU INSIST ON THIS COURSE, JUST REMEMBER...
...THE WIDOW NEVER FORGETS... AND NEVER FORGIVES.
THE CURTAIN FALLS, Ms. ROMANOVA...


YOUR PERFORMANCE IS OVER.
SMASH
GOT TO HAND IT TO NATASHA... SHE'S A BETTER SUPER SPY THAN I'D EVER BE.
TASTE OF BILE ON THE LOCKPICK SHE SLIPPED ME PAINTS A NASTY PICTURE OF WHERE SHE HID IT. YECH!
STILL, I THINK MISS DOUBLE-O-WIDOW IS IN OVER HER HEAD ON THIS ONE..
EVEN IF IT IS THANKS TO MY UNTIMELY ARRIVAL, BUT I'M TRYING NOT TO FEEL GUILTY ABOUT IT.
PRIORITY NOW IS TO FIND NATASHA AND BOOGIE OUT OF HERE. CALL IN HER BACK- UP TO HANDLE THE ROUGH STUFF.
CHEST FEELS LIKE IT'S BEEN THROUGH A DIESEL-FUELED EPILADY, AND THERE'S NO WAY I COULD GO TOE TO CLAW WITH THAT BEAR AGAIN...
THICK MASON WORK. SOLID WALLS. LINGERING HEAT SIGNATURE WHERE NATASHA HAD BEEN SITTING...
I'M PATHETIC.
HENCE, THE DIRECT APPROACH IS OUT OF THE QUESTION. LET'S SEE WHAT TROUBLE I CAN GET INTO WITH THE OL' RADAR SENSE.
FOCUS ON THE TASK AT HAND, DD. AND IF YOU'RE GONNA LOSE IT FANTASIZING ABOUT SOMEONE...

THINK ABOUT KAREN!
HE LEFT...
...JUST LIKE THAT... LEFT ME ALONE.
GOD... I'M SO WHINY WHEN I'M DRUNK. I'M EVEN STARTING TO ANNOY MYSELF.
GOT TO GET A GRIP. NEED TO TALK TO SOMEONE WHILE THE WINE GOES THROUGH MY SYSTEM...
SOMEONE WHO WOULD UNDERSTAND WHAT A PAIN IT IS TO BE DAREDEVIL'S GIRLFRIEND SOMETIMES...
-- BEEP -- HEY, FOGGY... IT'S KAREN. I'M LONELY... AND NOT EXACTLY SOBER... WANTED TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT YOUR FRIEND MATTHEW... ARE YOU THERE?
I SWEAR, THIS NEVER HAPPENS. NO ONE EVER CALLS ME...
Uh-Huh...
Oh! BOY... Uh... CHEESE DOODLE?
SO FAR SO GOOD... EXCEPT FOR THE FACT THAT MY CHEST WOUND HAS OPENED UP ON ME AGAIN.
THAT AND THE FACT THAT THE ECHO IN THIS VENTILATION DUCT IS SCRAMBLING MY HYPER-SENSES...
...AND THE DRAFT BOMBARDS ME WITH EVERY STENCH THIS PLACE HAS TO OFFER...
... OKAY, SO I LIED. THIS SUCKS --
-- WAIT... A SCENT... CUTTING THROUGH THE HAZE...
...FEMALE SWEAT...RIPE WITH ADRENALINE... PAIN. OZONE?

ALL THE TRAPPINGS OF SOMEONE BEING *TORTURED*.
NATASHA.
GRATE WON'T *BUDGE*...
...TRY TO USE MY SENSES, BUT WITH ALL THE *INTERFERENCE*, I CAN'T GET A CLEAR PICTURE OF *ANYTHING* DOWN THERE...
...TIMES LIKE THESE I'D TRADE ALL THE *HYPER-SENSE* IN THE WORLD FOR ONE GLIMPSE WITH REGULAR EYESIGHT.
I'VE GOT TO FIND *ANOTHER* WAY.
MEANWHILE, NOT FAR WITHIN THE COMPLEX...
THIS IS NOT GOOD.
IT'S BAD ENOUGH THE *COMPROMISES* WE'VE HAD TO MAKE WORKING WITH THE GENERAL...
BUT THE WAY HE'S HANDLING THE *WIDOW*... AND DAREDEVIL... I'VE HAD *ENOUGH* OF SECRETS.
NICHOLI IS CONFIDENT THAT THIS IS THE WAY TO FIND LAYNIA...
BUT I WANT ANSWERS. *NOW*.
YOU THERE, *HOLD!*

LOWER YOUR WEAPONS. I AM MIKHAIL URSUS, PERSONAL...GUEST...OF THE GENERAL --
WE KNOW WHO... AND WHAT YOU ARE, GENETIC MISFIT --
-- AND WE DON'T CARE. THIS AREA IS RESTRICTED. ONLY THE GENERAL AND HIS AIDES CAN PASS. TURN BACK --
-- OR DO WE DO OUR PART TO CLEANSE THE GENE POOL... MUTANT.
MORE SECRETS... I SEE.
SCHWAKK
SCHWAKK
BE THANKFUL THAT MY THIRST FOR THE TRUTH OVER-POWERS MY HATRED OF BIGOTS LIKE YOURSELVES...
...COMRADES.

NOW, IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME...
I HAVE A CONSCIENCE TO SAVE.
DEAR NATASHA...
...YOU WERE RIGHT... YOUR RESOLVE IS STRONG, AND I HAVE LEARNED NOTHING FROM THIS LITTLE EXERCISE.
I GUESS... YOU WEREN'T PAYING VERY GOOD ATTENTION, THEN...
PERHAPS, AFTER A BRIEF RESPITE... WE WILL CONTINUE.
GENERAL, LOOK AT HER... SHE'S OBVIOUSLY BEEN TELLING YOU THE TRUTH!
YOU'RE TOUCHING ME.
PLEASE, SIR... LEAVE HER BE.
CERTAINLY, VANGUARD, I WILL...
THAT IS, IF YOU DON'T CARE TO EVER SEE YOUR DEAR DARKSTAR AGAIN.
IT IS MY BELIEF THAT THE WIDOW IS WORKING FOR THE SAME MILITARY-INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX HOLDING YOUR SISTER.
WOULD YOU HAVE ME SHOW HER COURTESIES THAT, I ASSURE YOU, LITTLE LAYNIA HAS NOT ENJOYED?
NO... BUT THIS... THIS IS NOT RIGHT.
FINE, THEN... HELP ME END IT.

"HELP ME FINISH THE QUESTIONING... QUICKLY."
TOOK FOREVER, BUT I WEASELED MY WAY AROUND TO A CORRIDOR... I THINK THAT I'M JUST OUTSIDE THE ROOM...
THAT OR SOMEWHERE IN NEW JERSEY.
WOUND'S OPENED UP AGAIN... BAD THIS TIME... I'M LOSING OIL FAST... DRIPPING THROUGH THE GRATE...
DID I SAY DRIPPING? AS IN TO THE FLOOR? Oh, CRAP.
RRROWARRR
SO MUCH FOR SUBTLETY.
Nghh...
CAUGHT ME OFF GUARD... NO WAY I CAN DODGE FAST ENOUGH --
WAIT... BODIES IN THE HALLWAY... UNCONSCIOUS, I CAN HEAR THEIR BREATHING... TSKAROV'S MEN?
IS IT POSSIBLE THE BIG GUY HERE HAS SWITCHED SIDES?

I TAKE A CHANCE, AND INSTEAD OF BEATING HIS PAW REPEATEDLY WITH MY FACE --
TOVARISCH!
...
WHY... DO YOU CALL ME "FRIEND?"
I WAS HOPING YOU'D FIND IT LESS OFFENSIVE THAN "BONGO."
I GUESS BECAUSE I'M NOT THE GENERAL.
NO...YOU'RE CERTAINLY NOT. SNIF SNIF YOU DON'T REEK OF DUPLICITY AS HE DOES...
FRIENDSHIP REQUIRES RESPECT... TIME... TRUST...
WHY SHOULD I TRUST YOU?
BESIDES MY DISARMING SMILE AND SOLID UPBRINGING...
A LITTLE BABY POWDER AFTER A SHOWER TAKES CARE OF THAT...
BUT WE CAN TALK ABOUT THAT AFTER WE RESCUE THE WOMAN BEHIND DEATH TRAP NUMBER ONE --
I DID NOT GET A BABY-SITTER JUST SO I COULD HEAR OTHER WOMEN CALL YOU, FOGGY!
LIZ, THAT WAS JUST KAREN! COME ON --
BRING
Oh, LORD NO...
WHO'S A PARTY GIRL GOTTA CALL TO GET DOWN IN THIS TOWN? I'M COMIN' TO THE BIG APPLE, STUDLY, AND GUESS WHO'S PLAYING HOST! IN CASE YOU COULDN'T TELL, FRANKIE, IT'S CANDACE! SEE YA!
WAIT, LIZ! YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND! THAT'S NO GIRL --
SIGH
LAYNIA? LAYNIA, IT'S DAVIDOFF.
MAYBE WE SHOULD TRY THIS AGAIN ON ANOTHER NIGHT, FOGGY... IF YOUR PHONE EVER STOPS RINGING, CALL ME.
THAT'S MY SISTER.
PLEASE LITTLE ONE... IF YOU WOULD JUST WORK WITH THE GENERAL... IT WOULD BE MORE PLEASANT...

THAT'S FUNNY...
TAP TAP
WHA --?
ONLY I WAS GOING TO SAY, IF YOU DON'T YELL OUT, MY PAL MIGHT LEAVE YOUR LUNGS IN TACT.
THEMATICALLY IT'S THE SAME, ANYWAY...
LAYNIA!
THAT WASN'T EXACTLY THE EXCLAMATION I EXPECTED TO HEAR, BUT UP CLOSE, I REALIZE THAT THE WOMAN I SENSED WASN'T NATASHA AT ALL...
THOUGH GRIZZLY BOSKY SEEMS EXTREMELY INTERESTED IN HER.
WAIT, URSUS! I CAN EXPLAIN --
SOMETHING TELLS ME YOU'RE NOT GOING TO GET MUCH OF A CHANCE, PAL...
NOT WHEN TWO TONS OF KODIAK BEAR RIPS THROUGH YOU LIKE A GALLON OF BORSCHT.
TAKE A SEAT AND START RECONSIDERING YOUR LOYALTIES...
MIKHAIL... YOU YOU CAME FOR ME...
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT... HERE ALL THE TIME, ALL THE TIME... THAT MAN WILL PAY --
I HOPE NOT...
...FOR YOUR SAKE.
MIKHAIL, WHERE IS MY BROTHER? HE HASN'T DONE ANYTHING... RASH... HAS HE?

BLACK WIDOW... I...
PLEASE, TELL HIM WHAT HE NEEDS TO HEAR. I DON'T WANT TO HURT YOU... BUT IF I MUST...
...FOR MY COUNTRY... FOR MY SISTER...
I'M SURE, NICHOLI... THAT WOULD MAKE HER VERY PROUD OF YOU.
ENOUGH!
SHE IS TRYING TO TRICK YOU! ACT LIKE A MAN --
FULFILL YOUR OBLIGATIONS! TO ME!
YOUR COUNTRYMEN! YOUR FAMILY!
FORGIVE ME...
KA-BOOM
SEE, VANGUARD!? THE WIDOW HAS BROUGHT THE AMERICAN DOGS HERE!
TEAR THEM APART! BREAK TH --
Oh NO...

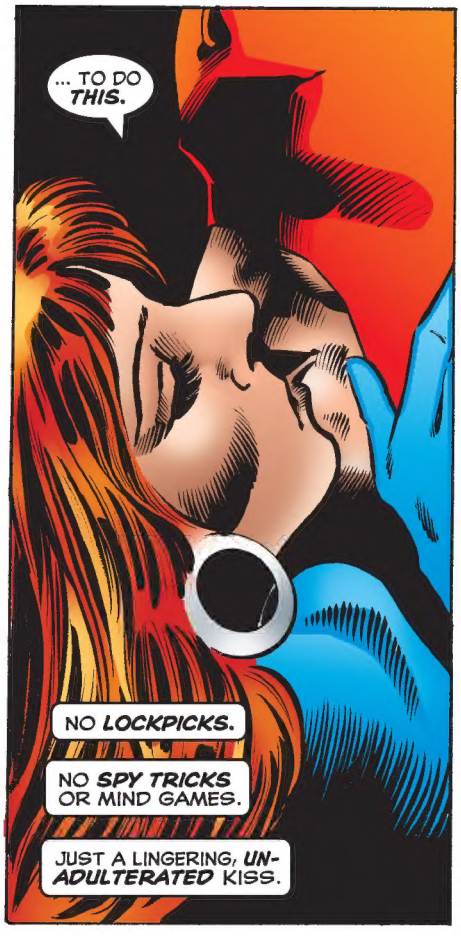
NICHOLI! STOP!
LAYNIA... HERE?
DON'T YOU JUST LOVE FAMILY REUNIONS? SORT OF MAKES YOU ALL WARM AND FUZZY INSIDE, DOESN'T IT, GENERAL?
Oh, I'M SORRY, YOU'D HAVE TO HAVE A HEART TO GET WARM AND FUZZY... MY BAD.
TSKAROV!
NO... THIS IS NOT POSSIBLE --
-- MY PLANS... MY MACHINE...
ANHILILATE THEM!
HEADS UP, GANG! WE GOT GATE CRASHERS AT THE REUNION!
SERIOUSLY GUYS, YOU CAN'T POSSIBLY THINK YOU BEAR ANY FAMILY RESEMBLANCE TO THESE TWO...
TRY THE BRONX ZOO... YOU'LL HAVE BETTER LUCK FITTING IN THERE.
FIRE AT WILL!

CHWAK
TSKAROV! TSKAROV!
YOUR BLOOD PRESSURE IS GOING TO SHOOT THROUGH THE ROOF IF YOU DON'T LEARN TO EXPRESS YOURSELF --
COME ON, VANGUARD... DON'T HOLD BACK. IT'S JUST NOT HEALTHY TO KEEP YOUR ANGER ALL PENT UP INSIDE...
YEARGH!
THAT WAS JUST SUPER... NOW TRY IT AGAIN, BUT WITH DEEP BREATHING...
NATASHA! ARE YOU --
LOOK OUT!
FWISH
LOOK OUT? FOR WHO? THIS OVERZEALOUS FELLOW?
CLEARLY YOU'VE FORGOTTEN ABOUT MY DEVIL'S SENSE WHICH TINGLES WHENEVER INEPT HENCHMEN ARE AFOOT. GOODNIGHT, IVAN.
NOW, AS WE WERE --
...
NATASHA?

HOW... HOW COULD THIS HAVE *HAPPENED?* IT WAS ALL SO --
NO! STOP THINKING LIKE AN OLD FISH WOMAN! YOU ARE THE SNOW *WOLF!* YOU WILL START AGAIN! YOU WILL *DEVOUR* THOSE AROUND Y --
SPISH
SPISH
THWIPP
YEARGH!
SPLASH
WELCOME TO MY *PARLOR,* GENERAL...
SORRY ABOUT THE MESS...BUT I WAS TIED UP.
SO, THIS IS THE PART WHERE I PUT YOU UNDER *ARREST* BY THE POWER VESTED IN ME BY THE *S.H.I.E.I.D. DIRECTORATE*...
BUT YOU KNOW... I'VE BEEN *REASSESSING* MY OPTIONS...

DZZT ZZT
MAYBE I'VE FAILED IN MY MISSION...
PERHAPS INSTEAD OF BRINGING YOU TO JUSTICE, ONLY TO BE RELEASED BACK INTO THE SYSTEM AFTER A PALTRY STAY IN PRISON...
...SOMETHING...UNEXPECTED HAPPENED, AN ACCIDENT, DEEP UNDERGROUND...
WHAT DO YOU THINK, GENERAL...?
AM I ACTING NOW?
YOU DON'T HAVE THE --
Oh YES... YES I DO, GENERAL...
WHAT IS A BLACK WIDOW... IF SHE IS NOT A KILLER?
I THOUGHT THAT SHE WAS A HERO.
'LO, NATASHA? WHAT'S COOKIN'?
THE GOOD GENERAL, IN ABOUT FIVE SECONDS.
YOU MIGHT WANT TO LEAVE IF THE SMELL IS GOING TO OFFEND YOU, DEVIL.
I THOUGHT THAT WHOLE "AVENGING AVENGER" BIT WAS AN ACT.
PERHAPS... OR PERHAPS IT WASN'T...
IS THIS WHAT YOU REALLY WANT, NATASHA?
YES. I WANT TO SHARE WITH THE GENERAL THE TRICKS I PICKED UP IN THE KGB...
ENLIGHTEN HIM TO PAIN SO EXQUISITE, IT WOULD REDEFINE HIS UNDERSTANDING OF THE HUMAN CONDITION...
I WANT TO RETURN HIS ATTENTION TO ME IN KIND...

BUT IF I DID...
KTHWAKK
I MIGHT FORGET THAT I'M NOT THAT PERSON ANYMORE. WORSE...
I MIGHT NEVER GET ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY...


... TO DO THIS.
NO LOCKPICKS.
NO SPY TRICKS OR MIND GAMES.
JUST A LINGERING, UN-ADULTERATED KISS.

THE WAY BOTH OF OUR HEARTS SKIP A BEAT IN UNISON, I THINK I'M IN TROUBLE...
...BUT THAT'S A HEADACHE FOR TOMORROW, FOR TODAY...

...WE TOOK DOWN THE BAD GUY...REUNITED A BROKEN FAMILY... AND SAVED THE CITY...
... AND I'VE GOT MY FRIEND BACK. I CAN LIVE WITH THAT.
NEXT
DD GETS SOME MUCH NEEDED DOWN TIME -- OR DOES HE!?